

OLENE S. WALKER Governor

GAYLE F. McKEACHNIE Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

Watershed Initiative

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food,

Utah Department of Environmental Quality,

Utah Department of Natural Resources

Governor's

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April 17, 2004 Governor's Watershed Initiative Take Pride in Utah Day

Interior Assistant Secretary, State Official and **Volunteers Rally to Control Erosion of Onion Creek During Take Pride in Utah Day**

Today, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary Lynn Scarlett, Utah Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Bob Morgan, State Senator Mike Dmitrich and State Representative Brad King worked with local volunteers

as part of the Governor's Watershed Initiative and the Adopt-A-Waterbody program to improve the Onion Creek Watershed near Moab, Utah. Volunteers planted native vegetation and placed signs to discourage off-road vehicles from damaging the creek. Morgan also presented the Governor's Watershed Improvement Awards to the many local groups involved in the project.

Watershed improvement projects are taking place throughout the state today as part of Governor Olene S. Walker's goal to improve watersheds and watershed awareness in Utah.

"Governor Walker has made watershed improvements one of the key initiatives of her administration because they provide many of the basic needs of life itself," said Morgan.

Some of the goals of the Governor's Watershed Initiative are to improve 25 watersheds throughout the state, provide watershed education in schools and to increase awareness and about the importance of watersheds to all Utahns.

(more)

"It is my goal to provide for cleaner rivers and lakes, to enhance water yield, and to increase public

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awareness and wise use of Utah's watersheds, said Utah Governor Olene S. Walker. "Watersheds are important to all Utahns because they provide the life-giving supply of water that grows our food and provides for our needs."

The Governor is calling on individual volunteers, families and organizations of all sizes to get involved by adopting a waterbody.

"We've set a lofty goal to take care of these vast areas, but together I know we can meet it. Our watersheds are our life sheds, Walker added"

To find out more about the Governor's Watershed Initiative and the Adopt-A-Waterbody program.

Go to the Adopt-A-Waterbody web site: http://adoptawaterbody.utah.gov.

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